

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 07312 121538Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /105 W
-----090202 131844Z /41

P R 121200Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9962
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7312

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AF, PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S ZIA RECEIVES FRIENDLY WELCOME AT KABUL

1. SUMMARY: THE BRIEF FOUR HOUR VISIT TO KABUL OF GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ, PAKISTAN'S CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, ON SEPTEMBER 10 PRODUCED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS, BUT CREATED POSITIVE, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERICS WHICH ARE BEING EXPLOITED BY BOTH SIDES. AFGHANISTAN'S NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND PRIME MINISTER, HAS ACCEPTED ZIA'S INVITATION TO VISIT PAKISTAN. END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE TOP AFGHAN OFFICIALS MEETING GENERAL ZIA AT KABUL AIRPORT WERE FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN; INTERIOR MINISTER MOHAMMAD ASLAM WATANJAR; AND MAJRO GENERAL BABA JAN, ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF. HE WAS TAKEN TO TAPEH-I-PAGHMAN, A MOUNTAIN GARDEN NEAR KABUL, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 07312 121538Z

WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY CHAIRMAN TARAKI.

3. ACCORDING TO A PAKISTANI EMBASSY SOURCE, NEITHER SIDE GOT INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE THORNY PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE, "BECAUSE THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO PERMIT ZIA AND TARAKI TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER." THERE WAS A PASSING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE

TWO SIDES SHARED "A POLITICAL PROBLEM," WHICH THEY INTEND TO RESOLVE PEACEFULLY.

4. THE PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT WAS IMPRESSED BY CHAIRMAN TARAKI'S SELF-ASSURED BEARING AT THE TALKS (AMIN SAID VERY LITTLE). TARAKI ELECTED TO SPEAK PUSHTU, HIS ETHNIC TONGUE, WHILE ZIA USED ENGLISH. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, TARAKI, A FORMER AMERICAN EMBASSY TRANSLATOR, INTERRUPTED THE INTERPRETER TO CORRECT CERTAIN NUANCES OF ENGLISH.

5. ASKED BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER WHETHER THE TARAKI-ZIA MEETING COULD BE TERMED THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AFGHAN-PAKISTANI DIALOGUE, THE PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT DEMURRED, OBSERVING THAT THIS WAS MERELY A PROTOCOL VISIT. HE OPINED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PAGHMAN SESSION MIGHT EVENTUALLY PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A RENEWED AFGHAN-PAKISTANI DIALOGUE OVER THEIR "POLITICAL DIFFERENCE" (I.E., PUSHTUNISTAN).

6. THE AFGHANS PROVIDED FRIENDLY, BUT GENERALLY UN-INFORMATIVE COVERAGE IN THE NATION'S MEDIA, ALL OF WHICH ARE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SHAH MOHAMMAD DOST WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ZIA'S VISIT WAS "A CAUSE OF DELIGHT ON OUR PART BECAUSE WE WANT FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE WITH THE REGION, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 07312 121538Z

INCLUDING PAKISTAN." THE AFGHANS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT TARAKI HAD ACCEPTED ZIA'S INVITATION TO VISIT PAKISTAN. PAKISTANI DIPLOMATS HERE WERE GRATIFIED THAT THIS PLAN WAS PUBLICIZED AT THIS TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AFGHAN PRESS INSISTED ON DESCRIBING ZIA'S TRIP AS BEING "AT HIS OWN REQUEST," A BELITTling PHRASE THE DAOUD REGIME ALSO USED TO EMPLOY FOR VISITS BY ZIA AND BHUTTO, MAKING THEM APPEAR TO BE SUPPLICANTS.

7. COMMENT: THE MERE FACT THAT A FRIENDLY EXCHANGE OF THIS TYPE OCCURRED IS A HOPEFUL SIGN THAT THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE IS BEING KEPT WITHIN MORE MANAGEABLE BOUNDS. IF SO, THIS DEVELOPMENT MUST GRATIFY THOSE PAKISTANI OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BRING THE AFGHANS BACK TO THE NEGOTIATIONS PATH ALONG WHICH FORMER PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD HAD TRAVELLED SO FAR BEFORE HIS UNTIMELY DEMISE. ONE SWALLOW DOES NOT MAKE A SPRING, HOWEVER.
DUBS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL07312
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780372-0979
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780978/aaaacmav.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58e05b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1471453
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTANI'S ZIA RECEIVES FRIENDLY WELCOME AT KABUL
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, AF, PK, (ZIA UL-HAQ, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58e05b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014